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ALOHA … ‘OUMUAMUA

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA'S INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY

First observed interstellar object to pass by Earth given Hawaiian name

The Pulse of Paradise
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

By Timothy Hurley
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Following a speedy yet far-reaching analysis, University of Hawaii astronomers Monday unveiled a description of their discovery last month of the first interstellar object seen passing through our solar system.

The assessment?

"This thing is quite strange," said Karen Meech of UH's Institute for Astronomy and lead author of the study, which appeared Monday in the journal Nature.

The rapidly rotating interstellar asteroid — about 2,625 feet long, or roughly seven football fields or more in length — is a highly elongated shape rarely, if ever, seen in our solar system.

COURTESY PHOTO

Karen Meech: *UH astronomer and lead author of the asteroid study*

At the same time, the dark red to muddy brown color and other characteristics suggest it shares similarities to space objects occurring in our solar system naturally.

After consulting with UH-Hilo Hawaiian language experts Ka'iu Kimura and Larry Kimura, the UH team named the interstellar visitor 'Oumuamua, which means leader or scout.

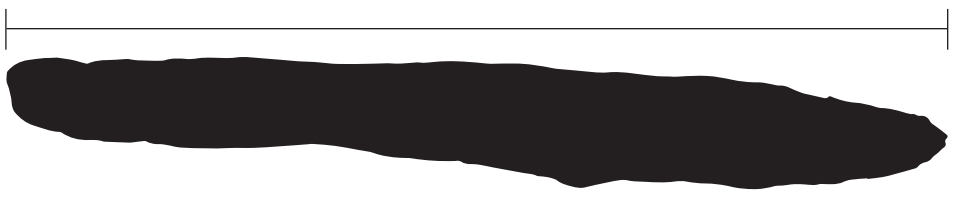
Please see **ASTEROID,** *A8*

INTERSTELLAR ASTEROID

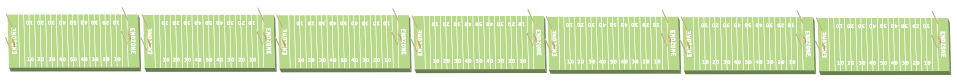
The recently identified interstellar asteroid is described as likely a dark red, long, metallic or rocky object. It is now headed out of our solar system:

• **Name:** 'Oumuamua • **Discovered:** Oct. 19 • **Origins:** Beyond our solar system • **Age:** Millions of years • **Status:** Passing through • **Telescope:** Pan-STARRS 1

Approximate length: **2,625 feet** (800 meters)



Which is about the length of seven football fields



Source: UH Manoa Institute of Astronomy

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HART board delays $18M increase for rail contractor

Most of the higher costs are due to a heavier workload, a rail official says

By Nanea Kalani
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The board overseeing Honolulu's rail project rejected a request by rail staff to increase a key engineering contract by nearly $18 million, with several board members saying they didn't have enough information to approve the sizable request.

Sam Carnaggio, project director for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, presented a request last week to the board to increase the so-called general engineering services contract for consulting firm CH2M Hill Inc.

HART initially awarded Colorado-based CH2M Hill a five-year, $46 million contract in 2013 to provide "oversight support" covering five tasks, including management support, cost analysis, environmental planning and management of design services. The requested change order would increase the firm's contract to $64.8 million. (Three previous adjustments totaling $699,572 were made since 2015.)

Carnaggio said the

Please see **RAIL,** *A8*

> **"When you're dealing with an $8.2 billion project, there's a temptation to say, 'Well, you know, $10,000 — that's nothing.' But it is something."**
>
> **Terrence Lee**
> *HART board vice chairman*

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